

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 /052 W

----- 038042

R 090630Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8241

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 13257

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN EXPRESS PRE-CENSORSHIP

REF: NEW DELHI 12052, 12263

1. THE INDIAN EXPRESS AND THE GOI CENSORS SEEM TO HAVE REACHED A COMPROMISE ON TIMING AND FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS THE CENSORS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR WORK IN TIMELY ENOUGH FASHION SO THAT THE HEWSPAPER'S SEVERAL EDITIONS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REACH THE STREETS ON SCHEDULE. IN DELHI CENSORS HAVE BEEN COMPLETING THEIR WORK BETWEEN 12:30 AND 1:30 AM.

2. IN THE CONTINUING COURT ACTION IN BOMBAY, THE HIGH COURT THERE SEPT. 3 RULED THAT IT WILL ACCEPT THE CASE FOR A FORMAL HEARINGBEFORE A REGULARLY CONSTITUTED BENCH. NO DATE, HOWEVER HAS BEEN SET FOR THE HEARING.

3. RUMORS CIRCULATING AMONG THE INDIAN EXPRESS STAFF IN NEW DELHI HAVE IT THAT GOENKA IS LIKELY TO CAVE IN SOON AND THAT SEVERAL EDITORS WILL BE DISMISSED.

4. THE MATTER OF PRE-CENSORSHIP OF THE EXPRESS, AND
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THE COURT ACTION ITSELF CONTINUE TO BE SUBJECTS OF

CENSORSHIP AND NOTHING APPEARS IN THE INDIAN PRESS.
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN NOTIFIED VERBALLY
THAT THEY ARE TO SUBMIT ANY STORIES ON THEIS SUBJECT FOR
PRE-CENSORSHIP, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE GENERALLY CIRCUMVENTED
THIS.
SAXBE

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